Message Text

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UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0779

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIS, CA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. - CANADA FISHING DISPUTE

- 1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL JUNE 10 AND 12 PRESS REPORTS, U.S. AND CANADIAN DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL SALMON TROLLERS' CONFERENCE, WHICH MET IN VANCOUVER JUNE 9, AGREE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FISHING DISPUTE BECAUSE IT FAILED TO HONOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON RECIPROCAL RIGHTS. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN ZEKE GRADER, DESCRIBED AS REPRESENTING 14 FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN CALIFORNIA, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT U.S. REGIONAL FISH MANAGEMENT COUNCIL VIOLATED THE RIGHTS OF CANADIAN FISHERMEN WHEN IT ATTEMPTED TO IMPOSE JURISDICTION OVER THEM BY LIMITING THEIR CATCH IN U.S. WATERS. THE CONFERENCE, WHICH INCLUDED DELEGATES FROM CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, ALASKA AND B.C., CLAIMED TO REPRESENT BETWEEN 9,000 AND 10,000 FISHERMEN.
- 2. ACCORDING TO JUNE 12 VANCOUVER SUN FRONT PAGE STORY, THE CONFERENCE ALSO AGREED THAT CANADIAN TROLL FISHERMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE THEIR CATCHES AS A FORM OF COMPENSATION. GRADER, HOWEVER, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD ONLY AGREED "UPON A TENTATIVE FORM OF RESTITUTION WHICH WILL NOT PLACE THE BURDEN OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. PACIFIC COUNCIL'S AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S MISTAKES ON THE WASHINGTON SALMON INDUSTRY". HE ALSO SAID THE CONFERENCE HAD COME TO "SOME UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE NEED FOR A LONG-TERM, COOPERATIVE SALMON AGREEMENT". HE CHARACTERIZED THE BOLDT/BELLONI DECISIONS AND THE U.S. PACIFIC MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S 1977 - 1978 SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN AS "THE TWO MOST FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES TO THE NECESSARY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES BEWTEEN

THE TWO NATIONS".

3. PRESS CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND EUR/CAN.

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